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Geology

The type and structure of rocks underlying Vance County are of major importance in determining the uses that can be made of the land surface. Since the geological structure determines topography, the geology affects the patterns of settlement, transportation routes, and types of agriculture.

Vance County consists of three major rock groupings which are briefly described below.

- A. Paleozoic and Precambrian - comprised primarily of gneiss and schist.
- B. Paleozoic Granite Intrusives - These include granite, gabbro and some syenite.
- C. Paleozoic Volcanics - Comprised to metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks of the Carolina Slate belt.

Minerals

Vance County was at one time an important mineral producer in North Carolina. In recent years, however, the output and value of mineral production has dropped. The following describes known mineral resources.

- A. Tungsten - Vance County was the second largest producer of tungsten in the United States until February, 1963, when the Hamme Mine near Townsville was closed due to the low price and decreased demand of tungsten.